

*Apalachicola*, April 4, 1839.

My dear Sir.

I hope, as you glance at the signature below, you will not be alarmed for my sanity, as was our good friend Mr Curtis, when six months ago he received a letter from me. But I fear I must trespass a little, to obtain some information which no one else can so well impart.

Through many discouragements, I have quietly and steadily, as leisure permitted, gone on with my Southern Botany, until last Saturday when I was much gratified to come to the word "Finis". I have some eight hundred pages of closely written Ms, one of which is nearly equivalent to a printed page of the last edition of your Manuel. I have somewhere between 2500 and 3000 species. The plan is wholly yours. The descriptions of the species are all my own, copying no one, when I knew the plant. My field commences where you leave it, and embraces the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

Now I purpose to defray the expenses of an edition, unless you and Profr Torrey advise to the contrary and the information I much <sup>want</sup> is this.

About how much will it cost me for copy, say of 700 pages, for printing and binding in muslin?

Had I best get it printed in Cambridge or can it be as well  
done elsewhere?

How long will it take the printers and binders to perform  
the work, and consequently how long must I remain north  
to correct proofs? Mr Curtis has promised his services in  
this particular, but I see not how he can well do it in North-  
Carolina.

As my book will be sufficiently bulky, I conclude to say  
very little (only a few pages) about the elements of Botany,  
and refer the student to the works you ~~you~~ have issued.

I have a list, of a page, of insurmountable difficulties which  
accumulated as I progressed, of these I wish to ask your advice,  
when I visit you.

I expect to reap but little pecuniary benefit, perhaps none  
at all; but I hope and believe the sales will defray the cost of  
publication. Of the merits of it others must judge, all I have  
to say is that I have performed the task to the best of my abil-  
ity.

Pardon if I have too rashly trespassed and believe me

Yours sincerely,

A. W. Chapman.